

**Virginia Advisory Committee
for the Education of the Gifted
Commonwealth Governor's School
Spotsylvania, Virginia
April 3, 2003**

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met at the Commonwealth Governor's School in Fredericksburg, Virginia. VACEG Members in attendance included VACEG Chair G. Hubbard, Commonwealth Governor's School director S. Wadsworth, VDOE Liaison B. McGonagill, C. Cottrell, N. Ballinger, J. Crowther, J. Green, J. Leslie, and J. Marler. Chair Hubbard noted that Dr. R. Turner would not be attending the meeting. Also noted were the resignations from VACEG of D. McKinney and H. Dawson.

The morning began with presentations by two students of Commonwealth Governor's School who were introduced by CGS director S. Wadsworth. M. Love gave a detailed, informative PowerPoint presentation about the 17 Academic-Year Governor's Schools in Virginia. These schools serve 120 school divisions and approximately 5,000 students. Student T. Landrum spoke about social dimensions, community involvement, and life-changing experiences as a student at Commonwealth Governor's School, which help prepare CGS students for meeting future challenges.

Chair Hubbard thanked the students and CGS director S. Wadsworth for the clear, succinct presentations. The VACEG meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Agenda changes were presented which C. Cottrell moved and N. Ballinger seconded. Minutes of the January 3, 2003, VACEG meeting were read. J. Leslie moved acceptance, and J. Green seconded acceptance. Chair Hubbard appointed S. Wadsworth timekeeper and J. Green process observer.

Chair Hubbard for the report from the Virginia Department of Education. B. McGonagill reported

- the Virginia General Assembly made no change in Governor's Schools funding;
- the Virginia General Assembly decided not to support Stanford 9 achievement testing for public school students (typically administered in grades 4, 6, and 9) but local school divisions could opt to administer Stanford 9 tests at their own expense;
- Summer Residential Governor's Schools are experiencing some areas of concern due to identification procedures of students in various school divisions;
- Governor's Schools did receive funding for an administrative grant to evaluate Shenandoah Governor's School and Commonwealth Governor's School and the Governor's School for Global Economics and Technology will be evaluated in May;
- Summer Residential Governor's Schools evaluations will be made of the Humanities and Visual & Performing Arts in July at the University of Richmond, Life Sciences in July at Virginia Commonwealth University
- Other important dates for Governor's Schools include Dabney S. Lancaster on June 23, at Clifton Forge; Blue Ridge on June 24, at Strasburg; and PAVAN on July 21-22, at Winchester and other sites.

Chair Hubbard asked for questions related to the DOE report.

J. Crowther asked about dropping the Stanford 9 achievement test. B. McGonagill answered that the Virginia School Board and Governor Warner plan to use the money saved by not testing to separate the social studies test into more logical parts in grades 6, 7, and 8.

N. Ballinger noted that the Stanford 9 test was used for identification purposes along with other standardized tests, such as the Otis-Lennon ability test. J. Leslie responded that the PSAT test could be administered at a lesser cost in dollars and lost class time. B. McGonagill noted that DOE has allowed the PSAT test as an ability measure for the Summer Residential Governor's School selection process.

Chair Hubbard noted that addressing questions about Governor's Schools involving timelines, essay questions, rubrics, and adjudication could have positive and negative impacts on outcomes. B. McGonagill added that issues about Governor's Schools adjudication sites had been studied and changes had been made. Three sites will be used for this year, including the University of Richmond, George Mason University, and Emory and Henry College.

Chair Hubbard reported that the VACEG Report would be submitted to the Virginia Board of Education at its July meeting so that the information might be sent to all VACEG Board members, and that the VACEG Board might review the information at the May 2nd VACEG meeting. Possible use of a PowerPoint presentation, similar to the one presented by CGS student M. Love, could add a dynamic dimension to useful information about Virginia's Academic Year Governor's Schools for the Virginia Board of Education. B. McGonagill added that VACEG could provide guidelines for excellence to school divisions as they begin the next round of developing their local plans for gifted education. Chair Hubbard reminded the committee that the VACEG 19th Annual Report indicated that the greatest need for teachers of gifted students was sustained staff development with resources to support staff development in gifted education.

The committee adjourned for lunch. Discussion after lunch ranged across many areas of gifted education and related topics. Highlight ideas include

- Include a PowerPoint presentation to show a map with the locations of all 17 Academic-Year Governor's Schools, and an additional map to show the nine Governor's Schools specializing in science and technology, the two that specialize in the arts, and the six that provide services in all academic areas
- Changes in the VACEG Board have occurred due to the retirement and resignation of Vice-Chair K. Eicher, consequently the committee is operating without a vice-chair.
- The VACEG Nominating Committee has acted and proposes its slate of officers
VACEG Chair (2003-2005) C. Cottrell
VACEG Vice-Chair (2003-2004) J. Leslie
VACEG Secretary (2003-2005) J. Marler
- The VACEG Board will elect officers at its May 2 meeting
- Chair of the VACEG Identification Committee is E. Daniels. The VACEG Staff Development Committee needs to elect a new Chair, since Harriet Dawson has resigned.
- VACEG needs a "new" new member orientation for clarity of purpose and mission.

Chair Hubbard called for reports from professional organizations.

J. Marler reported on the NEA Profession Builder Symposium (San Francisco, 2002) and distributed a letter from NCATE President Art Wise about "highly qualified teachers" under NCLB

J. Leslie reported that graduation 2004 is an important issue with a redesign of English 12 courses

N. Ballinger reported that the full Gifted Consortium will meet in Richmond on October 3, 2003, and that the fall 2003 VAG Conference will be at the Williamsburg Marriott starting on Nov.6, with its theme "No Child Left Behind and Gifted Education: Walking Together for All Children."

No public comment was made.

Chair Hubbard noted that the next VACEG meeting will be held in Richmond on May 2, 2003. Chair Hubbard noted, also, that the committee acted as a committee of the whole in its discussion and action, so no VACEG Executive Committee meeting would be necessary, today.

The VACEG Board meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.